

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland



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Number 2

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COVER: Catbird. Photo taken by Charles J. Stine at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Stokes. The young left the nest on June 9, 1956.

HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor

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THE YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD AT OCEAN CITY

Charles M. Buchanan

On Saturday, May 12, 1956, at the M. O. S. State Convention at Ocean City, Md., the ocean trip cruise for "pelagic" birds set sail on a foggy morning. Fingers were crossed in the hope that the fog would lift and give us a better chance to scan the ocean around us. However, this was not to be, and after a few hours of vainly patrolling back and forth, the boat returned to Ocean City a little ahead of schedule.

Some of us wanted to continue birding for a while before lunch, and I suggested we go to the pond across the bridge and a little way to the north, to try for herons. In my car were Adam Hubbell and Joe Turner of Alexandria, Va., and following us were the Misses Elizabeth Gillingham, Elizabeth Lippincott, Alice Rogers and Sarah Aldridge, all of the Philadelphia area, and Mr. Cook from Baltimore. We found no herons, but several kinds of swallows and an elusive Northern Water-thrush kept us busy for a while. We were in our cars ready to head back to the hotel for lunch when I noticed a bird fly into a small tree nearby. My first impression was a Meadowlark, because of a yellowish appearance around the throat, but I remarked to Adam Hubbell that it didn't have the right proportions for a Meadowlark. We put our glasses to it and, after a little furious thinking, we announced to each other, "Yellow-headed Blackbird!"

I yelled to the others to examine the bird without telling them what we had decided, and they were in puzzled agreement with us. At this we left our cars, opened a "Peterson," and proceeded at our leisure to tie down every field mark for the female of the species--so we thought--including the whitish streaks on the breast and the generally brownish coloration rather than the rich black of the breeding male. It was a new species for all of us, however, and in our excitement we overlooked the possibility that it could be a male not yet in full breeding plumage. This question came up immediately after lunch when most of the other birders temporarily postponed their afternoon plans to get a look at the bird, which very fortunately stayed around the whole weekend and was photographed in color by several members (see cover photo). The intensity and extent of the yellow and the presence of a white wing patch confirmed that the bird was a male.



Yellow-headed Blackbird from Kodachrome taken through 7 x 50 binoculars at Ocean City on May 13, 1956 by Stephen W. Simon

I returned to the pond on Sunday with Hilda Smith, who explained that she had seen these blackbirds in her home state of Massachusetts. Ironically enough, Miss Smith had talked her friend, Mrs. Cornelius Rinsma, also of Massachusetts, out of reporting the very same bird which she apparently saw by herself on Friday and correctly identified!

A youngster by the name of Larry Lewis, about 11 years old, lives just across the road from the pond where the bird was found, and he declared that he had seen this bird during the entire summer of 1955. Even though the bird is well marked, this observation would certainly be open to question; but the boy receives support from Dr. Charles Stine, who believes he also saw it last summer in the same area, but hesitated to report such a rarity. The files of the Patuxent Research Refuge show 63 records of the Yellow-headed Blackbird in Atlantic Coastal states (all except New Hampshire and Rhode Island) from 1851 to 1954. Only 14 of these are spring records, 2 are summer records (Connecticut), and the remaining 47 are fall records. In the 1890's there were 11 records from Massachusetts to Georgia, including all three previous Maryland records; and from 1930 to 1934 there were 11 records from Maine to Florida. The only previous May records are for Pennsylvania in 1880, Virginia in 1930, and New York in 1932. Maryland's previous records were as follows: a male with Red-wings near Curtis Bay on September 10, 1891, collected by Otto Nickel; a female at Patapsco marsh on September 18, 1893, collected by Richard Cantler; and a female at Patapsco marsh on October 1, 1894, shot but not preserved by Edwin Schenck.

104 W. Melrose Ave., Baltimore

MARYLAND NEST SUMMARY FOR 1955

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher

A total of 75 observers recorded data on 980 nests of 89 species of birds found breeding in Maryland during 1955. The number of nests per species recorded varies from one in 43 cases to 314 for Red-wings. The difficulty of finding nests of some very common species is well known to bird watchers. But that only one Baltimore Oriole nest was recorded in his "home" state in 1955 is unfortunate! We know that the number of nests found by observers does not indicate the true proportion of nests, but greater interest in this mass study would result in better coverage.

It is a credit to local units that a number of junior members participated in nest-finding activities during 1955. Three outstanding juniors are: Jimmy Cummings with 26 nests and Tommy Lomax with 21, both from Talbot County, and Gordon Knight of Harford County, with 25 nests. Adults with ten or more nests to their credit are: Elsie Bilbrough, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Richard Kleen, Robert Mitchell, Fred Schmid, Robert Stewart, Chandler Robbins and Jean Worthley. In all, nests were reported from 13 counties. The highest number of species was reported from Caroline County with 36. Garrett County, thanks to Pleasant Valley, was second with 22, and Talbot recorded 15 species for third place.

Special comment is due a study being conducted in Queen Annes County on Purple Grackles and Red-wings. This extensive work has revealed some interesting data from a total of 85 grackle and 270 Red-wing nests. Red-wings usually build within three or four feet of the water or marsh. One nest in this study was found to be ten feet high! In the particular habitat studied, grackles preferred dense growths of Honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) as nesting sites.

One interesting phase of the reports is the proportion of successfully hatched clutches, the total being 306 of 658 nests with sufficient data. This relation is rather close to that found by Willis in the past few years. For the student interested in this phase of nest study, there is a challenging field open in the study of conditions contributing to nest success (or failure, as the point of view of the student dictates) of some of our Maryland nesting birds.

The total number of species for which nesting evidence has been submitted during the seven-year period of these summaries has now reached 160. This total includes four that were added in 1955: Gadwall, Herring Gull, Nighthawk, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. These four species were all found nesting in Eastern Shore counties: Somerset, Talbot, Caroline, and Worcester, respectively. Five species were missed for the first time in seven years: Bob-white, Pileated Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Tufted Titmouse, and Long-billed Marsh Wren. If you would like to add a new species in 1956, here are some to watch for: American Bittern, Sharp-shinned, Duck, and Cooper's Hawks, Florida Gallinule, Chuck-will's -widow Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Raven, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, and Ring-necked Pheasant.

GREEN HERON - One nest found in a Loblolly Pine about 15 feet from the ground in Talbot County by Dick Kleen and Joe Spurry. Four young in nest on June 2, and on June 12 three dead on the ground following a heavy rain.

MALLARD - Five young in nest on May 15 at Heine's Pond, Worcester County (MOS).

BLACK DUCK - Two nests reported in Talbot County by Cummings et al. with six eggs each, June 23 and July 24.

GADWALL - Female flushed from nest with 9 eggs on Fish Island in the Manokin River, Somerset Co., July 19 (R. E. Stewart and C. S. Robbins).

WOOD DUCK - Clutch of 9 eggs, observed May 4-31, hatched before June 5 at Owings Mills (George Worthley and Jean Worthley).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - 2 Patuxent Refuge nests (Stewart & Schmid).

BALD EAGLE - Nest with young about 50 feet in a Loblolly Pine at Trippe's Creek, Talbot County, April 16 (Kleen).

OSPREY - Six nests reported from Talbot, Caroline and Worcester Counties. The earliest nest on April 5 at Denton (Fletcher). On May 14 two nests with three eggs in Worcester Co. (Crowder). Latest date from Talbot Co. on July 19 with one young in nest (Kleen).

SPARROW HAWK - Parents feeding young in a Sugar Maple tree cavity about 25 feet high at Pleasant Valley, Garrett County (Knight).

KING RAIL - Cummings found a clutch of eight eggs in a brackish swamp on a clump of grass, June 23 in Talbot County.

CLAPPER RAIL - Nest recently vacated by young at Robins Marsh, Worcester Co., July 18 (Stewart).

VIRGINIA RAIL - Three downy young found with parents in Somerset County by Clark Webster on June 16. This is the fourth downy young record for Maryland.

KILLDEER - Four nests reported from Caroline and Worcester Counties. Nesting activity had begun by March 30 at Denton (Fletcher).

WILLET - On May 14 and 15, two nests were reported from Worcester Co. with four eggs each (Simon et al., and E. M. Wood).

HERRING GULL - This is the first nesting record for the State. Three nesting pairs were found in Spartina grass on Sharp's Island, Talbot County, by Kleen, Cummings and Dize. Egg measurements were taken as proof. Two nests contained one egg each, while the third nest held two eggs on July 24.

LAUGHING GULL - 144 young caught by hand and banded on an island off South Point, Worcester Co., July 18; only two nests still contained eggs: one nest with one egg and one young just hatched, the other nest with two eggs and one day-old young (Stewart and Robbins). One nest with two eggs on Robins Marsh island the same day.

GULL-BILLED TERN - Eight young and a nest with four eggs found on a Sinepuxent Bay island, Worcester Co., July 18 (Stewart and Robbins).

COMMON TERN - Eight nests with one to three eggs and eight young banded on July 24 on Sharp's Island, Talbot Co. (Kleen, Cummings & Dize).

FORSTER'S TERN - First nests on Robins Marsh destroyed by flood tide. Of 42 late nests there on July 18, 7 held one egg; 26, two eggs; and 10, 3 eggs (Robbins and Stewart); no young seen on this date.

LEAST TERN - On Sharp's Island, Talbot County, four nests were found in the sand on July 24 (Kleen, et al.). Twenty-four were banded.

ROYAL TERN - 76 well-grown young corralled and banded at island off South Point, Worcester Co., July 18 (Stewart, Fankhauser and Robbins).

BLACK SIMMER - Of 55 nests with eggs on the middle island off South Point, Worcester Co., on July 18, 12 contained one egg; 16, two eggs; 19, three eggs; and 8, four eggs (Robbins and Stewart).

MOORING DOVE - Two nests reported from Caroline County on May 5 and 6. Both were destroyed.

BARN OWL - Kleen found a nest with two eggs at St. Michaels, Talbot County, on May 9. Two young were banded on June 19.

SCREECH OWL - On February 11 an adult was sitting in a nesting site at Frederick School for the Deaf Campus (S. Quinn). Five young were seen after May 11. The same nesting cavity has been used for three or four years.

HORNED OWL - On April 19 two young were seen at a nest site in a Loblolly Pine in Talbot County. Young birds were out of nest on May 21 (Kleen).

NIGHTHAWK - A nest with two eggs was found on the schoolhouse roof in Denton, May 31 (Fletcher). Still incubating on June 9.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - Young heard in a Greensboro chimney from June 27 to July 5 (E. Bilbrough).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - A nest discovered on June 9, young in nest on June 15 and out of nest on June 30 at Gibson Island (Henderson and Tappan). Another nest found on June 12 in Garrett County (Knight). Both nests were from 15 to 18 feet high. The first bird was seen to attack a Wood Pewee.

FLICKER - At Pleasant Valley, Mrs. W. B. Tyrrell found a nest in a dead Chestnut tree on June 15. Two young were being protected by adults on June 25 at Denton (Fletcher).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - Two nests were reported by Marvin Hewitt: May 16 an adult was seen going into a nest site at Henderson, and on May 21 an adult was seen feeding two young in nesting cavity at Federalsburg. Both nests were about 20 feet from the ground.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - Two nests in the Northwood section of Baltimore, 15 and 40 feet up. Young left one successfully; the other was destroyed when a storm blew the limb off (Lydra Gillespie).

DOWNY WOODPECKER - An adult was seen carrying food on May 17 at Denton (R. Fletcher).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - Six nests were reported ranging from six feet to 25 feet in height. One bird in Greensboro raised two broods, building May 8-18, feeding June 17-27, and three out of nest by June 28. The second nest was started on July 13 and young were out of the nest by August 15 (E. Bilbrough).

CRESTED FLYCATCHER - Of the three nests reported, one nest contained four eggs on June 25 and another three young on June 27.

EASTERN PHOEBE - Four nests from May 1 to June 15. One nest in May had four eggs while the three in June had young, all from Garrett Co.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER - A nest overlooking a stream in Baltimore Co. on June 18 with two nestlings (Walkers). Nest nearly covered with catkins.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE - Three nests in Baltimore, Caroline and Garrett Counties from June 5 to July 10. Denton (Caroline County) nest was as low as ten feet.

TREE SWALLOW - Began nesting activities as early as May 7 in boxes put up for Bluebirds at Denton (Fletcher). Only one of the five nests were successful at Denton, as Bluebirds took over the nesting boxes. On June 10 a female was feeding young in a duck box at Pleasant Valley, Garrett County (E. Minke).

BANK SWALLOW - One nest about four feet high in a bank on the Chesapeake Bay, Talbot County, June 5 (Kleen).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - Birds flying in and out of two nests in a clay bank on May 7 and 17, Denton (Fletcher).

BARN SWALLOW - Of the nine nests reported, five used old nests. Four of the nests contained five eggs; 33 to 40 days elapsed from the time the first egg was laid until the young birds left the nest. Latest date for the birds to leave the nest was July 22, Greensboro (A. Bilbrough).

PURPLE MARTIN - Adults still building nests on May 27 at Denton. June 25, adults had deserted about 35 nests because Raccoons had eaten eggs. One box which the Raccoons could not reach had young on July 16 and by August 3-11 the young were leaving six successful nests, none banded (Fletcher).

BLUE JAY - Broods of 4 & 5 young banded at Laurel, May 22 (Robbins).

CROW - Three young and one egg hatching on May 2 in nest 25 feet up in top of dead Virginia Pine at Owings Mills (Jean Worthley).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - Three nests reported from Pleasant Valley from two to six feet above the ground. All three contained young.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE - One nest in a bird house about four feet from the ground in a flower garden; birds were building on May 8 and six birds left nest on June 23 at Greensboro (E. Bilbrough).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Building under loose bark 20 feet up in tree at Pikesville, Baltimore Co. on May 7 (Jean Worthley).

HOUSE WREN - Two broods raised at Gibson Island (Henderson and Tappan). May 8 to June 12 first brood, and July 12 second brood being fed in the nest.

CAROLINA WREN - Six nests reported. Earliest nest at Greensboro on February 27 in a chicken house (E. Poore). Nest heights varied from on the ground to seven feet.

MOCKINGBIRD - Of the eight nests reported, the earliest was May 6 and latest nest taken from a Cardinal on July 29--the fledgling left the nest on August 24 (Fletcher). A Greensboro nest was being built only four days, May 21-25, had five eggs by May 30, five birds on June 15, five young left the nest on June 22--a total of 33 days in all (E. Bilbrough).

CATBIRD - Seven reports, birds leaving nests from June 9 to July 20. Nesting height varied from three feet to seven feet. Four nests were successful.

BROWN THRASHER - Ten nests reported with first nesting activity noted on May 8 at Denton (Robert Fletcher). Height of nests varied from ground level to 11 feet. Five were successful. On July 17 adult birds seen sheltering nestlings from the hot sun at Denton.

ROBIN - Seventy-four nests were reported. Fifteen nests were built in evergreens and eleven on buildings. The height of the nests ranged from two to 50 feet. Nesting dates were from April 13 to July 1, with young leaving nests about 14 days after hatching. About 50% of the nests were successful.

WOOD THRUSH - Three eggs at White Hall, Balto. Co., July 2 (Worthley).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD - Of the ten nests reported, the earliest was April 19, while the latest was July 17. Eight nests were successful--six with four young and two with five young. All reports were of nests in boxes.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - On May 7 both birds were bringing nesting materials for a nest 25 feet up in a crotch of a tree at Frederick (Sarah Quinn).

CEDAR WAXWING - Three nests on June 15 at Pleasant Valley, placed in Hawthorn trees from seven to 15 feet up. The trees were on a hill with second-growth deciduous trees and heavy undergrowth (Gordon Knight, Lois McCollough and Eleanor Minke).

STARLING - Brood of 7 banded in nest box at Laurel, May 6 (Robbins).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - At Denton on June 28 a nest was found about 45 feet high in a hickory tree; July 2 one adult singing in the tree, and the other on the edge of the nest as if feeding young (Fletcher).

RED-EYED VIREO - Five records from May 10 to July 27, ranging from five to 15 feet above the ground. A Cowbird and vireo fledgling were being fed by an adult on the ground at Denton, July 27 (Fletcher).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - Building on May 14, Ocean City (J. Worthley).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Egg laid on May 15 by bird trapped for banding in Pocomoke Swamp, Worcester Co. (C. S. Robbins).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - At Pleasant Valley Gordon Knight found a nest on the ground at the edge of a clearing with four young on June 13. Parents were feeding young on June 17.

PARULA WARBLER - Mrs. Chester Snow found a nest in her back yard at Chevy Chase on May 26. The nest was about 30 feet in the same spruce tree in which they nested in 1954. On June 9 adults were feeding steadily all day. Male and two young left nest on June 10.

YELLOW WARBLER - A nest discovered by Mrs. Walker on May 29 at Glencoe about 15 feet in a willow tree. No activity at nest on June 5.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - Female on the nest on June 12 at Pleasant Valley (Knight). The nest was about 12 feet up in a Hornbeam tree.

CHESNUT-SIDED WARBLER - A nest with two young at Pleasant Valley on June 15 (McCollough and Minke) about three feet high in a blackberry bush.

OVEN-BIRD - Two records at Pleasant Valley on June 14 and 17 with four and five eggs. Nests were among ferns and logs (McCollough and Cook).

YELLOW-THROAT - Adult seen carrying food into briars at Greensboro, June 6 (M. W. Hewitt).

HOODED WARBLER - Female was seen feeding a young Cowbird in Prince Georges Co. near Laurel on July 3 (C. S. Robbins).

AMERICAN REDSTART - A nest found by Adams in Pleasant Valley on June 16 with young which left nest site (Hawthorn tree) on June 17.

ENGLISH SPARROW - Three eggs in refurbished Barn Swallow nest eight feet up at Owings Mills, July 5, destroyed by Homo sapiens (J. Worthley).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK - On June 21 Knight found young leaving nest under Canada Thistle in Harford County.

RED-WING - 314 nests recorded. Eggs were in 12 nests by May 17. There were a few young by the last of May, but the majority of nests had young during the month of June. Nests were found from ground level up to the unusual height of ten feet.

ORCHARD ORIOLE - Four nests reported from Caroline County. Two of these were successful. Two nests were built by the same bird at Greensboro, but finally deserted, probably because Purple Grackles were too near (E. Bilbrough).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - One nest reported from Caroline County. Male bird was carrying food on June 3 to nest in walnut tree (Fletcher).

PURPLE GRACKLE - Of the 86 nests reported, 80 had young on May 18 (Mitchell and Schmid). Nesting heights ranged from five feet to 20 feet. Earliest nesting date was May 5, and latest date, June 17. Thirty nests contained 3 eggs or young while 29 had 4 eggs or young and only five nests had five eggs.

COWBIRD - Two records in nests of Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow during July and August.

SCARLET TANAGER - A nest at Pleasant Valley, June 14, 18 feet high.

SUMMER TANAGER - Adults feeding 2 fledglings, Denton July 25 (Fletcher).

CARDINAL - Four records: earliest at Denton, May 28, and a late record of adults feeding fledgling on October 10 and for two weeks following at a Bel Air feeder (Mrs. J. H. Wills).

BLUE GROSBEAK - Two records, from Caroline County, both successful. June 22, adults feeding two young at Greensboro (Bilbrough) and four young being fed at Denton on July 27 (Fletcher).

INDIGO BUNTING - Knight found a nest with three eggs in Harford Co. in a blackberry bush, July 24. On August 6 there were four newly-hatched babies.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH - Adults feeding two fledglings at Denton on September 5.

RED-EYED TOWHEE - One record--Denton: April 22 there were two eggs; April 25, four eggs; May 2, destroyed.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Adults carrying food to Denton nest on June 3 (Fletcher).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - Nest of four eggs found on the ground on an island in Worcester County on May 14 (Captain J.E.M. Wood).

CHIPPING SPARROW - Eleven nests from April 23 to August 9, ranging from one to 16 feet up. Six nests in evergreens, nine successful.

FIELD SPARROW - Seven nests reported, May 1 to July 17. Nests were on the ground and up to four feet in bushes in fields and woods borders. Two to four eggs were found in these nests.

SONG SPARROW - Seven nests with three to five eggs each from May 22 to July 8 found on the ground and up to six feet. All nests but one were near dwellings. One was found in Cunningham Swamp, Pleasant Valley (Winfield).

Addendum: BOB-WHITE - Nine eggs, St. Michaels, July 4 (Peter Bailey).

Route 1, Denton

* * *

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE ?

Marvin Hewitt

Last year I sent a bird list to two local newspapers (whose names will remain anonymous). Apparently my longhand was not too legible; for in the midst of a long list of names familiar to all of us were the following "species": killdeer, spouted sandpiper, guster yellowlegs, red-billed woodpecker, accordian flycatcher, powla warbler, overbird, Louisiana waterthrush, brooded warbler, ruby crowned knight, purple gackle, blue grasback, goldfish, red-eyed tawler and clipping sparrow.

Greensboro

REPORT OF STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 5, 1956

Chandler S. Robbins

The most successful count of Maryland birds ever undertaken was the State-wide Count of 1956. Thinking back on the chilly morning of May 5 and recalling the scarcity of migrants you observed on that day, you may wonder how the present project could be called such a great success. On many other days this spring you noticed migrants much easier to find than they were on the 5th of May. And if you will glance back at Haven Kolb's summary of the 1950 Count (Maryland Birdlife 7: 30-37) you will see totals of 50 Cape May Warblers, 123 Black-throated Blues and 45 Canada Warblers as compared with 10, 26 and 14, respectively, for these species this year.

Success is measured not in terms of the number of birds seen in a given area by you or your party, but in terms of the total amount and quality of coverage that is obtained by all parties afield. In total observers we fell far short of the 178 participants we had in 1948, the year of the first State-wide Count. The total number of individual birds counted in 1956, however, was about twice as high as the average for the nine years of this count, and the number of species identified, 230, exceeded the previous one-day high by 24. But more important than the number of birds identified are the accompanying details of the amount of time spent in observation. This information enables us to make direct comparisons between each of our areas and to state that a given readily-identifiable species is more common in one part of the State than in another part. Let us consider, for example, the Cardinal. The highest count of 105 came from Gibson Island, and one of the lowest counts, 16, from nearby Annapolis. Do you believe for one minute that the Cardinal is $6\frac{1}{2}$ times more common at the former location than at the latter? If, however, we apply a little arithmetic and compute the number of Cardinals recorded per party-hour afield, we find Gibson Island had 2.3 as compared with 2.0 for Annapolis. In other words, the Cardinal is just about as common at one of these localities as at the other. Similar comparisons may be made between many other common species, to show relative abundance in various parts of the State on this day. As the data accumulate over the years, comparisons can be made of the less common species as well; and average relative abundance for this time of the year can be obtained. Many participants cover the same areas each year; the more uniformity of coverage we can attain the more significant will be the results.

General Comment on Results

Examination of Table 1 shows vividly many features of the migration across our State. We quickly sift out those water birds that are present only at Ocean City (last column), and those that are confined to the vicinity of the Bay (roughly the right hand half of the table). We note that the Osprey, Tree Swallow and Fish Crow fit fairly well in the latter category. Our eye then searches for birds that are present only in inland areas, or birds that become scarcer and scarcer as we read from left to right (northwest to southeast). The Purple Finch is the most striking example in this category; it was seen in very small numbers in three

Western Shore coastal plain areas, it was found in all but one area to the west and north, and in none to the south and east. Less impressive examples are the Least Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Blue-headed Vireo, and some of the warblers.

The lateness of the 1956 migration is shown by the relatively high counts of species that normally reach their peak of abundance in April, and the low tallies for species which do not arrive in large numbers until May! The Purple Finch, referred to above, is generally a scarce bird this late in the season. On this same date in 1952 (Maryland Bird-life 8: 32) only 3 individuals were found--all in one area. White-throated Sparrows were twice as numerous this year as on comparable dates in other years. The most unusual showing of late stragglers was the appearance of the Fox Sparrow on three lists; this species habitually departs in early April and there are only three previous May records for Maryland. There were also indications of lateness among some common summer resident species. The Red-eyed Vireo, which is seldom missed on more than one or two areas, was seen on only 14 out of 20 counts this year. It is hard to believe that this abundant nesting species was still so scarce on May 5 that only three areas in the State found as many as one Red-eye per hour. It is indeed a strange experience to have nearly 90 species on one's list before the first Red-eyed Vireo of the day is heard or seen--but that's exactly what happened to me in Howard County. Note that the White-crowned Sparrow appears on almost half the lists this year instead of the usual one or two.

We Missed

When a cooperative effort such as this scours all sections of the State and finds 229 species in one day, there obviously are not very many species of regular occurrence in early May that are missed. With more parties operating in our one coastal county we would certainly have added several more species of shorebirds. Western Maryland should be able to produce Turkey, Raven, Duck Hawk and Golden-crowned Kinglet, and perhaps the Long-eared Owl and Saw-whet Owl. We were just a little too early to find late migrants such as the Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, the Mourning and Wilson's Warblers, and the Lincoln's Sparrow. A good list from Dorchester County would certainly have provided the Short-billed Marsh Wren and Florida Gallinule.

Just Luck

As would be expected, a couple of dozen species were represented by only one individual, and in probably half of these cases it was not a matter of good planning but just plain luck that the species were noticed. Finding only one King Rail was bad luck; we should have had them in several areas. Finding only one Gannet and one Surf Scoter probably indicates that the observers stopped looking when they found the first one. But coming up with an American Golden-eye on the Patapsco River, a Stilt Sandpiper at Kent Island, a single Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill in Patapsco State Park, and an early Olive-sided Flycatcher at Patuxent Refuge can be attributed only to luck. It's not that the Pine Siskin is a rarity or the Red Crossbill entirely unexpected; but rather that siskins have been strangely absent this spring, and that the crossbills are so

Table 1. State-wide Bird Count, May 5, 1956

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOT
	All	Was	Emm	Fre	Uni	Pik	Rev	Roll	Wyn	PPK	How	Gblt	Pat	Gib	Ann	Cal	Ken	Talb	Car	OcC	
Common Loon						1					1			2			3			1	8
Red-throated Loon			1																	22	23
Horned Grebe																	12				12
Pied-billed Grebe											1	2		8							11
Cannet																				1	1
Double-cr. Cormorant														4000			5	2		226	4233
Great Blue Heron												1	3	2	2	3	9	3	2	4	29
American Egret																		1		1	2
Snowy Egret																	2			2	4
Little Blue Heron											1										1
Green Heron	x			1		2	1		2		2	4	3	6	1	1	21	4	2	6	56
Black-cr. Nt. Heron				1						1										14	16
Yellow-cr. Nt. Heron																				4	4
American Bittern			1			1							1	1						1	5
Least Bittern	x																				x
Whistling Swan												1		2			10	19			32
Canada Goose													15							100	115
Brant																		20			20
Mallard	x	4										2	2	6			3			1	18
Black Duck							4					2	4	1			52	2	14	1	60
Gadwall																	2				2
Blue-winged Teal													2				16				18
Wood Duck	x	4	1			1				2	10		9						10		37
Ring-necked Duck													3								3
Canvas-back														2			1				3
Greater Scaup														8			28				36
Lesser Scaup Duck			10			3									12						23
Am. Golden-eye										1											1
Buffle-head														4							4
Old-squaw														4							4
White-winged Scoter																				12	12
Surf Scoter																				1	1
Am. Scoter																				75	75
Ruddy Duck												1		219	15						235
Hooded Merganser														1							1
Am. Merganser																	6				6
Red-br. Merganser																				81	81
Turkey Vulture	x	7	10	3	10	6	13			6	20	8	7	8	5	34	200	52	175	66	630
Black Vulture				2	2		1				2					1	5		5		18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	x						1						1	2							4
Cooper's Hawk											1	1		1		1			1		6
Red-tailed Hawk													2				4	11	1	2	20
Red-shouldered Hawk						3					4	2	13	1			2	1	3	2	29
Broad-winged Hawk		1	1			1	2	1	1	1	4	1				1	3				15
Bald Eagle													1			1	5				5
Marsh Hawk				1							1					4	4				6
Osprey	x						1				3		1	4	1	3	18	12	5	14	62
Pigeon Hawk																				2	2
Sparrow Hawk			2			1			2		2	1		1			1	1	3		14
Ruffed Grouse				2																	2
Bob-white	x	9	2		1		1	2		2	26	21	7	30	4	16	34	5	13	12	185
Ring-neck Pheasant		1					1				4						1				7
King Rail																		1			1
Clapper Rail																				2	2
Virginia Rail														1							1
Sora														1							2
Coot																	26	14			43
Piping Plover																				3	2
Semipalmated Plover																	113				55
Killdeer	x	1	10	2	2	12				2	8	10	4	1	1	3	40	15	10	23	144
Black-bellied Plover																				175	175
Ruddy Turnstone														7						13	13
Woodcock													1	7					1		9
Wilson's Snipe													2	1						4	7
Upland Plover						1															1
Spotted Sandpiper			12			1	1			2	8	30	6	5	4		3	2	1	8	83
Solitary Sandpiper			1		5	2				1	10	15	5	1			3	2		3	48
Millet																	1			17	18
Greater Yellow-legs			1							1					1		10	5		18	36
Lesser Yellow-legs			2			1				1					2		45	7	1		59
Knot																				2	2
Purple Sandpiper																				61	61
Least Sandpiper			1			3							4	4			120	12		31	175
Red-backed Sandpiper																				4	4
Eastern Dowitcher																				18	18
Stilt Sandpiper																	1				1

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOT
	All	Was	Emm	Fre	Uni	Pik	Rav	Rol	Wyn	PPK	How	Gblt	Pat	Gib	Ann	Cal	Ken	Talb	Car	Occ	
Semipal. Sandpiper														1				3	40	44	
Western Sandpiper																			1	1	
Sanderling																			53	53	
Black-backed Gull																			2	2	
Herring Gull												1		301		4	49	21	300	676	
Ring-billed Gull														20	3	3	17	151	1	16	208
Laughing Gull																		2	58	58	
Bonaparte's Gull																	1		18	19	
Gull-billed Tern																			4	4	
Forster's Tern																			100	100	
Common Tern																			565	565	
Black Tern																			24	24	
Least Tern																	16	2	10	28	
Royal Tern																			5	5	
Caspian Tern														1					8	9	
Black Skimmer																			55	55	
Mourning Dove	x	4	20	4	4	5	5	2	1	2	87	60	20	33	1	13	12	39	25	13	350
Yellow-billed Cuckoo														2			3		4	9	
Black-billed Cuckoo																		2		2	
Barn Owl																		3		3	
Screech Owl				1										3							
Horned Owl											3		1	2			1	1	1	9	
Barred Owl					1								2	1					2	6	
Short-eared Owl																	2			2	
Chuck-will's-widow																		5	2	7	
Whip-poor-will	x	3	2		3						19	6	5	4			9	1	8	2	62
Nighthawk	x	4										2						1	1	8	
Chimney Swift	x	500	30	15	1	50	41	5	40	50	316	40	20	60		19	120	30	40	23	1400
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird						1				1		1	3	7				1	7	21	
Belted Kingfisher	x	1	2			3	2			1	1	1	1	15	5	1	1	2	1	2	39
Flicker	x	5	20	2		5	4	2	4	2	6	7	2	11	2	1	80	3	3	11	170
Pileated Woodpecker	x	1											4							1	
Red-bellied Woodp'r		3	1	1	1	4	1		2	25	9		15	15	6	4	14	9	12	5	127
Red-headed Woodpecker			1							1		2						1		5	
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker	x	1										1								2	
Hairy Woodpecker	x	1			1						3	1	8	1		3	4		3	1	26
Downy Woodpecker	x	2	6	2	6	3	3	1	2	2	6	8	14	4	2	1	7	9	10	9	95
Eastern Kingbird			6	3	5	30	3				14	22	10	57	6	7	21	14	19	7	224
Crested Flycatcher	x	4	2		2	2	2				11	1	8	7	1		8	13	12	3	76
Eastern Phoebe	x	9	10	2	2	5	4		1	1	10	7	17	6		6	3	4	14	7	108
Least Flycatcher	x	1					2					1								4	
Acadian Flycatcher		2	1						1	6		1		2				2	3	12	30
Eastern Wood Pewee		4		1						1		1						8	2		17
Olive-sided Flycatcher											2		1								
Horned Lark			2														3	4	15		26
Tree Swallow	x		20			4					10	6	47	2	6	20	60	1	16	8	200
Bank Swallow											12		10	3			20	10			55
Rough-winged Swallow	x	16				1	3	1	2	50	17	25	1	87	5		1	4	3	13	229
Barn Swallow	x	20	40	10	20	50	15	2	2	12	69	58	40	150	15	31	160	33	45	85	859
Cliff Swallow	x	2	1		5						3		13		1						25
Purple Martin	x	6	10		4	4	37				4	2	10	2	10	15	314	37	40	26	521
Blue Jay	x	3	40	4	30	52	1	15	30	12	71	42	33	289	4	4	35	8	15	3	691
Crow	x	100	20	15	10	100	35	3	7	6	61	21	40	52	10	7	80	200	55	136	1264
Fish Crow			10		1	2			1			1	1	5	2	6	9	10	4	2	558
Black-capped Chick.	x	1																			1
Carolina Chickadee		4	6		6	4	3	3	2	1	9	33	22	25	10	7	5	12	46	8	206
Tufted Titmouse	x	7	20	3	4	6	5	3	4	2	41	33	30	26	1	11	7	18	26	13	260
White-br. Nuthatch					4	4			2	3		1									14
Red-breasted Nuthatch												1			2						3
Brown-headed Nuthatch																	16	2			18
House Wren	x	5	25	2	10	5	5	2	1	2	24	13	11	89		12	17	1	12		236
Carolina Wren	x	15	6	1	4	1	5	2	1	1	19	21	9	31	3	11	11	12	17	8	178
Long-bill Marsh Wren												1							2		3
Mockingbird		7	15	3	3	5	3	2	3	1	45	27	15	90	4	15	46	24	35	23	366
Catbird	x	11	30	4	8	12	7	10	2	50	29	42	15	139	3	10	58	3	30	2	465
Brown Thrasher	x	6	30	3	4	6	4		2	5	2	24	41	9	97	6	7	4	3	29	284
Robin	x	75	50	8	20	50	9	10	10	25	56	118	28	195	12	29	250	25	135	159	1264
Wood Thrush	x	10	30	2	10	30	12	6	5	10	74	29	25	36	2	4	3	15	30	3	336
Hermit Thrush												1						1	1		3
Olive-backed Thrush		7	3	1	2	1	1	4	4		3	10	3	1	1		18	2			61
Gray-cheeked Thrush		5	1			1						2						1			10
Veery		2		1	1	1	2		1	2	7	3	5	4				4			33
Eastern Bluebird	x	3	15	3	6	12	7			2	9	17	3	37	2	13	5	4	26	12	178
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	x	6		1		8	4			4	13	22	21	6		2	23	8	12	25	155
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1		1	2				1			10				1			16
American Pipit	x	21	3															100			104
Cedar Waxwing	x				20						13		60		6						99
Migrant Shrike																			1		1

Species	1 All	2 Was	3 Pra	4 Fre	5 Ori	6 Pik	7 Rav	8 Roll	9 Wyn	10 PPK	11 How	12 Gtlt	13 Pst	14 Gib	15 Ann	16 Cal	17 Ken	18 Talb	19 Car	20 Occ	TOT
Starling	x	400	50	25	20	30	11	20	20	100	81	175	36	74	50	28	500	23	150	245	2038
White-eyed Vireo			1			2	10				12	13	8	9				6	11	16	91
Yellow-thr. Vireo	x	3	1		1	6	6		1		7	4	10	1				3		1	44
Blue-headed Vireo				2		1					2										5
Red-eyed Vireo	x	3	2					2	1	12	10	24	46	6		5		15	15	9	150
Philadelphia Vireo						1						1									2
Warbling Vireo		8				1		6										1	1		17
Black & White Warbler		5	4		3	2	8	5	3	2	16	9	12	1	2	3		8	4	7	94
Prothonotary Warbler			2									2						4	8	6	24
Worm-eating Warbler		1									1		5					5			12
Golden-winged Warbler	x					1					7	2	6								16
Blue-winged Warbler	x								1	3	11		5	1		1		1	1		24
Tennessee Warbler											1		1								2
Nashville Warbler		1	3		2	1			5	4		7	7	1					1		32
Parula Warbler	x	6			1	1	3		7	1	14	18	22	30	2	2		4	1	12	124
Yellow Warbler	x	2	1			2	1	7		2	3	3	4	25		1	24		1	5	85
Magnolia Warbler				2		2				12		1						1			18
Cape May Warbler									3			5						1	1		10
Blk-thr. Blue Warbler		1	4			1	2		1	2		6	7	1							28
Myrtle Warbler	x	6	10	4	20	12	7	2		21	278	38	26	14	7		4	25	14	70	558
Blk-thr. Green Warbler	x	4	10	1	2	5	1	1	3		3	2	7	1					1	1	42
Cerulean Warbler	x	1								1		3									2
Blackburnian Warbler		4	30			3	8		10		8	3	17					1	1		85
Yellow-thrtd Warbler												1		2		1		1		4	9
Chest.-sided Warbler	x	5	3			4	3	2	3	2	16	9	12	3				2	1		65
Bay-breasted Warbler		2										1									3
Black-poll Warbler									1	10	2	5							2		20
Pine Warbler												8		2		4		4	2	3	23
Prairie Warbler	x	5	5				22			2	12	24	11	26		6		4	6	22	145
Western Palm Warbler																		2			2
Ovenbird	x	3	20		4	6	7		1	2	11	5	20	2			7	8	7	8	111
No. Water-thrush						1				1			5	3				1			12
La. Water-thrush	x	2	2		2	3	6	2		2	11	10	6	1					3	3	53
Kentucky Warbler			1		1	1					4	3	10	6					4	6	43
Yellow-throat	x	2	20		2	10	30	5	1	12	40	18	30	33		4	26	12	16	16	277
Yellow-breasted Chat	x	3	10		2	4	13	1	1	26	6	2	6		2	2		4	16	3	99
Hooded Warbler		4	6			2				14	28	21	32								105
Wilson's Warbler										2		2		3	1						2
Canada Warbler								1	1	5	1	2									14
Am. Redstart	x	14	20	1		12	20	10	1	50	53	38	51	4			4	2	2	3	305
English Sparrow	x	100	50	20	5	25	4	10	10		76	26	14	29	60	63	125	200	190	45	1052
Bobolink	x		1		2					6			1					4			14
S. Meadowlark	x	14	25	10	10	12				109	13	16	7		8		73	50	100	35	482
E. Redwing	x	500	50	12	25	50	68	20		132	67	30	175	8	60		237	1000	120	220	2774
Orchard Oriole			2		3					3			1	3				2	10		28
Baltimore Oriole	x	7	4		2	2	2	5		8	4	1					3	4	4	1	47
Rusty Blackbird														2							4
Boat-tailed Grackle																					51
Purple Grackle	x	400	50	15	35	75	3	5	6	12	62	5	21	41	6	44	461	1000	256	340	2837
E. Cowbird	x	12	30	5	15	30	12	5	7	12	39	6	7	81	6	9	147	22	56	41	542
Scarlet Tanager	x	3	10		1	6	4			2	17	34	14	8	1	10		10	17	1	138
Summer Tanager																		5	2		9
Cardinal	x	17	20	4	10	12	30	4	6	10	64	38	20	105	16	29	39	40	76	37	577
Rose-br. Grosbeak	x					1		4			4	1						1			15
Blue Grosbeak																		2	2		4
Indigo Bunting	x	2	2	1	2				2	5	11	15	6	4		1		3	5	1	60
Evening Grosbeak											3							1			4
Purple Finch	x	10	30	5	2	6		12	3	100	29	3	2	1							203
Pine Siskin										1											1
E. Goldfinch	x	200	40	12	10	100	30	20	150	50	181	1320	40	130		18	44	38	295	76	2754
Red Crossbill											1										1
Red-eyed Towhee	x	12	30	3	2	25	20	3	7	6	61	96	30	102	3	10	20	21	68	28	547
Savannah Sparrow			1	2						8			10				14	4	3	11	53
Grasshopper Sparrow	x	4	20		18	4				28			1				6	6	2		89
Henslow's Sparrow													1								3
Sharp-tailed Sparrow																					4
Seaside Sparrow																					2
Vesper Sparrow	x	6	10	2	2	2					9								4		33
Slate-colored Junco	x				2	2			1	12									2		19
Chipping Sparrow	x	15	20		10	12	1	2		2	14	2	21	61	3	13	17	6	60	5	264
Field Sparrow	x	21	20	3	5	12	15			1	47	10	26	7		16	15	10	61	16	285
White-crown Sparrow	x	3	4		10	6				1			4		6				11		45
White-thr. Sparrow	x	7	30	3	20	25	20	5	10	50	32	93	33	102	16	41	30	20	69	80	686
Fox Sparrow	x					1				1			1	8	5				1		2
Snarp Sparrow					4	1							1	8	5		1			4	26
Song Sparrow	x	21	30	3	6	12	25	3	3	25	59	21	16	96	5	24	29	3	19	36	436
TOTAL SPECIES	82	89	94	56	70	94	69	47	54	71	108	110	117	117	50	67	97	109	108	130	230
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	2732	331	1039	480	645	645	404	2593	796	3345	7516	759	4145	2823	38763	246					
PARTY-HOURS	15	14	4	4	6	7	4	6	6	12	10	14	46	8	6	12	15	51	18	246	

much less common than the pine woods they frequent that it's usually mere coincidence if an observer stumbles upon them. Even so, coincidences seem to be piling up on each other to the point where we are beginning to wonder whether Red Crossbills may be regular but mighty scarce spring transients along the Maryland fall line. In three years out of the past four I have found one or more Red Crossbills in my area during the State-wide Count--but in a different place each year.

Birds' Eye View of Previous State-wide Counts

Counts for the period 1952-1955 have not yet been published, but it is hoped that this material can be worked up in the near future and published as space permits. In the meantime, a summary of the total number of species recorded, the commonest bird, and the area with the highest species total may be of interest for comparison with 1956. In 1952 and 1953 some of the most strategic areas were covered on Sunday instead of Saturday so the total list for one day is greatly reduced.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Commonest Species</u>	<u>Highest Area</u>
May 8, 1948	190		
May 7, 1949	183		McDonogh 92
May 6, 1950	193	Goldfinch 1,184	Patuxent Refuge 123
May 5, 1951	187	Goldfinch 1,375	Ocean City 134
May 10, 1952	159	Bobolink 959	Patuxent Refuge 106
May 11, 1952	199	Cormorant 4,600	Ocean City 168
May 9, 1953	188	Starling 1,092	St. Marys County 133
May 10, 1953	184	Red-wing 319	Ocean City 147
May 8, 1954	205	Red-wing 2,620	Charles & St. Marys 129
May 7, 1955	195	Red-wing 2,538	Gibson Is.--Talbot (tie) 125
May 5, 1956	229	Cormorant 4,233	Ocean City 130

County Comparison

You have already noticed that some lists were made by a single observer or a single party of observers. Others were county compilations, the work of several teams of counters. Most, but not all, of the reports with more than 100 species fall in the latter category. In order to make a fair comparison between counties such as Baltimore, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel (each with several separate lists in the table), and Caroline and Talbot (with all local participants contributing to a single combined list), we have prepared county totals by combining several of the lists in Table 1. Since the Patapsco State Park and Patuxent Research Refuge lists both include parts of two counties, and since observers were not asked to keep their records separate by counties, several species on these lists could not safely be assigned to a county list. It is quite likely also that several of the Pocomoke birds credited to Worcester County were actually seen in adjacent Wicomico County. So keep these shortcomings in mind while you read the county totals for the top twelve counties:

Prince Georges	133	Queen Annes	111	Frederick	99
Worcester	130	Talbot	109	Washington	89
Anne Arundel	124	Caroline	108	Allegany	82
Baltimore	114	Howard	108	Montgomery	70

Bare Facts

For the benefit of folks who may use some of this year's data for future comparisons, a resume of coverage and results is in order. At the end of Table 1 are the total species, total individuals and total party-hours for each area and for all areas combined. Names of participants and additional information concerning the individual areas are given at the close of the article. All lists submitted are included there, and all lists that gave counts for each species are included in the table.

Weather conditions on May 5, 1956 may be summarized in three words: clear, cold and calm. The mercury dipped to 31° in Allegany County, 35° in the piedmont, and 42° to 44° near Chesapeake Bay; and it rose to between 65° and 71° during the day. Wind remained negligible inland, but rose to 10 miles per hour along Chesapeake Bay and 20 miles per hour along the ocean in the afternoon.

Eighteen species appear on all 20 lists in Table 1. Since some lists were made in small areas such as a city park or a farm it is to be expected that comparatively few species would find suitable habitat in all 20 areas. If, on the other hand, we consider just the ten highest lists (93 species or more), we are dealing with areas involving many square miles and a wide variety of cover types, and we expect a large number of species to be present on all lists. Forty-four species (nearly half the total number of species on the smallest of the lists considered) were found by all ten parties. All but three of the 44 species are summer residents through most of our State. Of the other three, the White-throated Sparrow and Myrtle Warbler are winter residents as well as very common migrants; and the Tree Swallow is strictly a transient in all but three of the areas covered. Other wide-spread transients, found in 15 of the 20 lists, were the Olive-backed Thrush and Black-throated Green Warbler. Note how low the total numbers of these two species were.

Ocean City, as would be expected, had the most "scoops" (species found by no other party): Gannet, 1 heron, 4 ducks, 1 hawk, 1 rail, 9 shorebirds, 1 gull, 5 terns, 1 skimmer, and 2 sparrows; total 26. Kent Island had 5: Horned Grebe, Gadwall, American Merganser, Stilt Sandpiper, and Short-eared Owl. Talbot County was next with 4: Brant, King Rail, Barn Owl, and Palm Warbler. Gibson Island recorded the only Buffle-head, Old-squaw, and Ruddy Duck; Howard County the only Little Blue Heron and Red Crossbill; Patapsco State Park the only American Golden-eye and Pine Siskin; Patuxent Refuge the only Ring-necked Duck and Olive-sided Flycatcher; Caroline County the only Black-billed Cuckoo and Loggerhead Shrike; Emmitsburg the only Ruffed Grouse; and Pikesville the only Upland Plover. Of the 48 species found by only one party, only seven were perching birds.

The total number of observers who participated in the 20 areas shown in Table 1 was 117. Three other people contributed lists without counts. It is interesting that no county which had been covered in a previous year succeeded in passing its highest species count in 1956. Allegany County contributors tied their 1954 total.

Resume of Coverage

1. Allegany County. 3 parties--C & O Canal near Oldtown; Martins Mt.; Cumberland to Frostburg via Mt. Savage and Eckhart. Species counts not received in time for inclusion in table. John Workmeister, R. Douglass, M. Douglass, C. Richardson, D. Folk, A. Everstine, E. Everstine, H. Miller, M. Taylor, C. Manley.
2. Washington County. 15 party-hours (5 a.m. to 9 p.m.); 189 party-miles (9 on foot, 180 by car). Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Stauffer, Howard Dean.
3. Emmitsburg area of Frederick County. 14 party-hours (5:20 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Dr. John W. Richards.
4. Frederick area of Frederick County (Willis Derr Rd. and John Derr farm). 4 hours (1 party). Mabel Hoyler, Hazel White, Sarah Quinn, Wayne Clingan.
5. Unity (Stony Broke Farm), Montgomery County. 4 hours. Seth H. Low.
6. Pikesville, Owings Mills and Worthington Valley, Baltimore County. 6 hours (1 party), 6 to 12 a.m., half time by car, half on foot. Elmer Worthley, Jean Worthley, Rodney Jones.
7. Loch Raven, Baltimore Co. 7 hours. 3 observers, Erana Lubbert leader.
8. Lake Roland, Balto. Co. 4 hrs. 6 observers, Mrs. Leo Vollmer, leader.
9. Wyman Park, Balto. City. 6½ hrs. 7 obs., James & Marylou Travis leaders.
10. Patapsco State Park, Baltimore and Howard Counties. 6 hours (1 party, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Irving E. Hampe and Gorman M. Bond.
11. Howard County. 12 hours (4:45 a.m. to 8:50 p.m.). Chandler S. Robbins.
12. Greenbelt, Berwyn and Beltsville, Prince Georges County. 10½ party-hours (6 to 2, 5 to 7:30). Lewis Oring, Kenneth Wright, S. Fisher, D. Bridges.
13. Patuxent Research Refuge, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties. 14½ party-hours (5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., observers together). Robert E. Stewart and Paul F. Springer.
14. Gibson Island, Anne Arundel Co. 1,000 acres. 13 observers (4 part-time) in 4 parties. 46 party-hours (on foot). Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Mrs. Gail Tappan, Charles M. Buchanan, Dr. J. A. C. Colston, Robert Dwight, Mrs. Walter Hughson, Mrs. Richard Henderson, Judge W. L. Henderson, Edith McHenry, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Lawrence Romaine, Mr. and Mrs. Dolf Swing.
15. Annapolis (Beach Drive, Hillsmere Shores), Anne Arundel County. 8 party-hours (2 in mid-morning, 6 in afternoon). Carl & Bunny Long.
16. Calvert County. 3 observers in 2 parties plus casual observations by 4 observers near their homes. 6½ party-hours. Elizabeth Slater, Friel Sanders, John H. Fales, Virginia White, Virginia Dorsey, Joseph Showalter, Cliff and Margaret Trott.
17. Kent Island and Kent Narrows, Queen Annes County. 12 party-hours (5 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Richard and Martha Dubois.
18. Talbot County. 15 party-hours. Richard L. Kleen, James Voshell, Meade Lloyd; scattered observations by others.
19. Caroline County. 51 party-hours (41 on foot, 10 by car); 240 party-miles (20 on foot, 220 by car). Annabelle Bilbrough, Della Mae Bilbrough, Elsie Bilbrough, Irene Bilbrough, Winnie Bright, Margarete Butenschoen, A. J. Fletcher. Roberta Fletcher, Bobby Fletcher, George Gottwals, Marvin Hewitt, Naomi Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Michael Messix, Terry Moore, Ethel Poore, J. Scudder, Salome Somers, Wilbur Rittenhouse, A. May Thompson.
20. Ocean City, Pocomoke and South Point, Worcester County. 18½ party-hours (6 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.; 2 parties in a.m., 1 in p.m.). Philip A. DuMont and Harriet Sutton, leaders, Lois Morgan, Louise Berry, Gordon Merrick, Mrs. G. W. Plett, Ellen Wilson, Mrs. Rehm, A. B. Trowbridge, Elois Rogers, Virginia Daiker, Mr. & Mrs. William Ryan, Mr. & Mrs. George Golding, Elizabeth Best, Milner Hill, Bob Caswell, C. R. Hough, Sr.
21. Monkton, Baltimore County. 61 species. Stephen W. Simon.
22. Harford County. 64 species in 6 hours. Gordon Knight.
23. Queen Anne, Queen Annes Co. 60 species in 5 hours. Wilbur Rittenhouse.

1955 COUNTY BIRD LISTS

Charles M. Buchanan

In presenting the summary of the 1955 county lists, the use of a table is omitted, as an experiment to see what the readers' reaction will be. For the 1954 lists, five pages were taken up with listing every bird reported and checking every county from which it was recorded. This method is certainly the most thorough, but it is felt that the majority of readers would be satisfied with just a written summary, highlighting any unusual records, noting population changes, etc., and would pay little or no attention to such a lengthy table. Any comments on this change in procedure will be appreciated.

Although approximately the same number of observers submitted lists in 1954 and in 1955, there were marked fluctuations in many of the county totals. The 1955 totals are as follows:

Worcester	255	Queen Annes	166	Wicomico	93
Talbot	224	Dorchester	165	Cecil	91
Baltimore	204	Howard	149	Saint Marys	89
Anne Arundel	203	Charles	137	Somerset	72
Caroline	193	Calvert	136	Kent	67
Montgomery	178	Carroll	128	Allegany	45
Frederick	177	Harford	127	Garrett	44
Prince Georges	175	Washington	125	GRAND TOTAL	290

It is to be expected that Worcester County, encompassing Ocean City and surrounding areas, should turn up the most species. The 23 species seen there and nowhere else include Holboell's Grebe, Wilson's Petrel, Gannet, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, European Teal, Harlequin Duck, Am. Elder, Golden Eagle, Greater Shearwater, Glossy Ibis, Am. Oyster-catcher, Piping Plover, Hudsonian Curlew, Knot, Purple Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, Avocet, Roseate Tern, Dovekie, Swainson's Warbler and Lark Sparrow. These records are largely responsible for the increase in the grand total to 290 birds from 279 in 1954. Talbot County had more thorough coverage and added 23 species to its 1954 total, recording the only Goshawk and Yellow Rail. Anne Arundel was represented on fewer lists and slipped badly, 34 species under 1954. Nevertheless, they added the only Wilson's Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper and Snow Bunting. Baltimore barely maintained its standing in the exclusive 200-or-over group, and contributed the only Rock Partridge. Other counties reporting birds seen nowhere else were Dorchester with Cattle Egret and Black Rail, Frederick with Northern Shrike and Brewer's Blackbird, Caroline with European Widgeon and the third state record for Oregon Junco, Garrett County with Raven, and Montgomery with White-winged Crossbill.

In 1954, because of small lists from Somerset and Queen Annes Counties, no more than 10 species were found in all 23 counties. Although these two counties improved considerably in 1955, Garrett and Allegany plummeted to new lows and again only 10 birds were seen in every county. They were Turkey Vulture, Chimney Swift, Barn Swallow, Crow, Robin, Starling, Yellow-throat, Red-eyed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow and Song

Sparrow. The English Sparrow has yet to make the grade.

The winter of 1954-55, which brought such an interesting variety of irregular northern migrants into Maryland, might be expected to yield approximately the same distribution in 1955 as in 1954, but the fact was that observations fell off a little in every case. For instance, the Saw-whet Owl dropped from a total of 5 counties to 3, the Red-breasted Nuthatch from 15 counties to 12, the Evening Grosbeak from 12 counties to 10, and the Red Crossbill from 3 counties to 1. These are not appreciable differences, but taken together they have some significance. Perhaps these migrants are more easily found as they arrive than at other times during their stay.

It would seem that Anne Arundel County occupies a unique position geographically with regard to certain birds that are normally associated with the coast. It was the only county west of the Bay to record Red-throated Loon, Clapper Rail, Wilson's Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sanderling, Gull-billed Tern, Black Tern and Boat-tailed Grackle. Part of this is due to the number of observers in the county, but it wouldn't appear to be the only reason. Anne Arundel also had the distinction of being the first county to record the Wood Ibis during its greatest northward movement in decades. It was later found in Prince Georges, Baltimore and Talbot Counties.

For the second year in a row, a few species which might be interesting to note are showing decided preferences for certain parts of the State. The White-breasted Nuthatch becomes scarcer toward the coast; the Blue-headed Vireo heavily favors the western and central counties; the Mourning Warbler sticks to central Maryland for the most part; and the Summer Tanager does not penetrate northwest of Montgomery County. Again it must be said that the distribution of observers has an effect on the reported distribution of birds. It is difficult to say where this factor ends and natural factors begin.

An expression of thanks is extended to all the contributors of 1955 lists, the principal ones of which for each county are as follows: Allegany--Leonard Llewellyn; Anne Arundel--Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Mrs. Gail Tappan, Prof. & Mrs. David Howard; Baltimore--Charles Buchanan, Elmer Worthley, Stephen Simon; Calvert--Jack Hailman, John Fales, Elizabeth Slater, Friel Sanders; Caroline--Marvin Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher; Carroll--Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dubois; Cecil--Edward Manners; Charles--Allen R. Stickley, Jr.; Dorchester--Richard Kleen, John Terborgh; Frederick--Dr. and Mrs. John Richards; Garrett--Chandler Robbins, Leonard Llewellyn; Harford--Thomas A. Imhof, Gordon Knight, Orville Crowder; Howard--Chandler Robbins, Gorman Bond, Mrs. George Munro; Kent--Marvin Hewitt; Montgomery--Seth H. Low, Jack Hailman, Orville Crowder; Prince Georges--Chandler Robbins, Lewis Oring; Queen Annes--Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dubois, Wilbur Rittenhouse; Somerset--Chandler Robbins, John Terborgh, Robert Stewart; St. Marys--John Terborgh; Talbot--Richard Kleen; Washington--Dr. & Mrs. R. S. Stauffer; Wicomico--Chandler Robbins, Mrs. Carl Lubbert; Worcester--Jack Hailman, Lewis Oring.

104 W. Melrose Ave., Baltimore

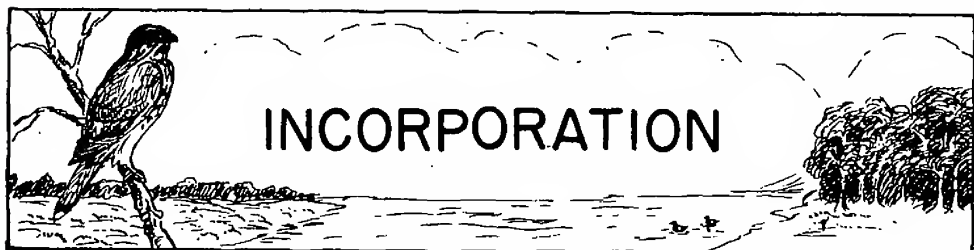
ARKANSAS KINGBIRD IN TALBOT COUNTY

Richard L. Kleen

The Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus), which is so familiar to all of us, is replaced in the western sections of our country by its close relative, the Arkansas or Western Kingbird (Tyrannus verticalis). Although the eastern bird is a study in black and white and its western counterpart is a beautiful blend of yellow, gray, brown and black, the similarity of their habits bespeaks their close relationship. The Arkansas Kingbird has also that quality, so popular among birders in search of unusual birds, of often turning up in areas where it is not expected. During the autumn season, with greater consistency every year, this wanderer turns up along the Atlantic coast. The great majority of all these records occur during the month of September. As winter approaches, most of these strays disappear, perhaps moving much farther south; but there have been records of birds remaining as late as New Years Day on Long Island and January 15 in Maine. Although the Arkansas Kingbird is to be looked for, though not to be expected, in the eastern states in the autumn, it has never been reported east of the Appalachian Mountains in the spring.

I have often thought of the Arkansas Kingbird when birding in the fall and have observed them on three occasions on the south shore of Long Island during the months of October and November. However, my thoughts were just as remote from Arkansas Kingbirds as they were from Bulbuls and Nightingales as I set out on May 22 with Miss Doris Deffibaugh, a seventh grader from St. Michaels High School, in search of nests of Belted Kingfishers and Bank Swallows. We walked along the shore near Claiborne in Talbot County. The water on our left was Eastern Bay, with Kent Island visible a few miles to the north. The land on our right was Rich Neck, which had undergone great erosion resulting in a steep ten foot bank of clay and sand. It was in this bank that we had found two nests of the Belted Kingfisher and four of the Bank Swallow. We had almost reached the point of the neck when a bird flew over our heads. It had the yellow belly and dark mask of the Arkansas Kingbird. Nests were forgotten for the day, but a further search failed to produce the suspected bird. As we left the area, a strident call from the woods presented the disquieting thought that our bird might have been the similarly yellow-bellied Crested Flycatcher. The next day, I retraced my steps for almost two hours to no avail. I had just given up and mentally reduced my patrician kingbird to a plebian Crested Flycatcher, thereby congratulating myself on an unusual conservatism, when, from a tree overhead flew the bird for which I had been searching. It flew to a hummock in a plowed field about 60 yards away and presented all the field marks. I stalked the bird for 15 minutes and got to within 20 feet of it. On one occasion a pair of Eastern Kingbirds divebombed our western visitor. They appeared to bother not at all the Red-wings and Mourning Doves that also frequented the field, but seemed to recognize the relationship between themselves and the Arkansas Kingbird. The observations on May 22 and 23 are the first spring records for the Arkansas Kingbird east of the Appalachians and are an addition to the mere handful of spring migration records east of the Mississippi.

St. Michaels



WE ARE INCORPORATED!

Seth H. Low

A corporation is a legally formed association of persons, having an entity of its own which is not dependent on any one individual and which is perpetual. Our Society is now such a legal entity with the name of Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

The incorporation came about in the following way. President Richard Kleen received word that a substantial donation for initiating a Sanctuary Fund might be offered to our Society if the donor were assured that our Society would be perpetual and free of domination by any individual. Incorporation seemed to be the answer and a special meeting of the Executive Board was promptly called.

The Executive Board met on November 20, 1955 and it was the unanimous opinion of those present that such incorporation was desirable. The following were appointed as incorporators: Gladys H. Cole, Seth H. Low, James R. Travis, Lester E. Wood and Jean R. Worthley. Under the guidance of our good friend and fellow member, E. H. Burgess, Vice-President and General Counsel of the B. & O. Railroad, the papers were prepared and the first meeting of the Board of Trustees (Incorporators) was held to execute the forms and forward them to the State Tax Commission. A second meeting was then held to activate the new Corporation, to elect officers to serve until the first annual meeting, and to prepare a report to the members (see Articles of Incorporation on pages 67-68).

The first annual meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., was held at the Hastings Hotel at Ocean City on May 12. After hearing the report of the Board of Trustees, the motion was duly made, seconded, and unanimously RESOLVED that the members do hereby ratify the actions of its Executive Board and its Incorporators and also that a rising vote of thanks be given its Counselor E. H. Burgess and his right hand man, Lester E. Wood, for their very special efforts on behalf of all the members.

R. D. 2, Gaithersburg



JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1956

Chandler S. Robbins

It was a long and cold winter, accentuated by low mercury readings in January and excessive snow in March. Frederick's record of 43 consecutive rainless days was broken on Jan. 10, and by the end of that month all reservoirs were full, assuring a plentiful supply of water for human needs through the remainder of the year. A severe windstorm on Feb. 25 brought a record-breaking gust (for mid-winter) of 68 miles per hour to Friendship Airport, and 104 miles per hour to Hagerstown.

Temperatures at Friendship Airport dropped to near or below freezing every night in the last half of March, and the maximum warmth recorded there by day during this period was 59°. Such conditions did not either encourage the departures of our wintering birds, or stimulate arrival of migrants from the south. Accordingly, arrivals tended to be at least one to two weeks later than normal, though early strays of several species managed to arrive nearly on schedule. Table 1 will demonstrate the spread of arrival dates that resulted.

In this table, the counties are arranged from northwest to southeast so the reader can determine which species arrived at about the same time in all parts of Maryland, and which ones required ten days or more to progress across the State. In some cases late dates in the eastern counties merely reflect the difficulty of detecting the first migrants in an area where the species winters commonly. "W" indicates that the species wintered so commonly no arrival of transients was recognized. Observations for Frederick County were submitted by Dr. John W. Richards, Mrs. Austin Hoffman, Sarah Quinn and others; Montgomery mostly by Seth H. Low; Baltimore chiefly by Stephen W. Simon, Charles M. Buchanan, and Richard and Gladys Cole; Harford by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Braun, Miss Cairnes, Orville Crowder, George Fletcher, Oliver Gaines, Evelyn Gregory, Gordon Knight, Robert Merkel and Mrs. W. B. Munnikhuysen; Prince Georges primarily by Chandler S. Robbins; Anne Arundel mostly by Vera Henderson and Elize Tappan; Queen Annes by Richard and Martha Dubois and Wilbur Rittenhouse; Caroline by Jerry and Roberta Fletcher, Alicia Knotts, Marvin and Naomi Hewitt, Salome Somers and C. Gutherie; and Talbot by Richard Kleen. Note that only a scattering of Eastern Phoebe checked in during early March and that nearly 20 days elapsed before the heavy influx of Mar. 24 brought this species to the majority of its nesting areas. Purple Martin arrivals, likewise, were spread over three weeks. Grebes. It is frequently difficult for observers in the tidewater areas of Maryland to detect the first northward movement of water birds that winter commonly within the State. We look, therefore, to the res-

Table 1. Spring arrival dates, 1956

	Fred	Mont	Balt	Harf	PrGe	Anna	QuAn	Caro	Talb
Whistling Swan	3/10	0	3/5	W	3/20	3/21	3/21	3/27	W
Blue-winged Teal	3/28			2/25		3/10		3/21	3/11
Killdeer	3/11	2/5	3/1		3/3	W	W	W	W
Wilson's Snipe	3/28	3/18		3/3	3/17		3/5	3/19	W
Mourning Dove	2/28	W	3/2	W	2/23	W	3/10	W	W
Yel-shaft Flicker	3/31	W	3/26	W	3/15	W	3/20	W	W
Eastern Phoebe	3/8	3/6	3/5		3/2	3/24	3/24	3/5	3/4
Purple Martin	4/6	3/24	4/1	3/31	4/4	3/26	3/27	3/14	3/21
Brown Thrasher	3/5	4/14	4/15	3/25	4/5	3/29		4/1	4/7
American Pipit	3/31	3/17		3/17		3/10	3/19	3/18	W
Cedar Waxwing	3/5	2/3		2/26	2/23	2/17	3/17	W	W
Cowbird	2/19	3/6	3/3	2/24	3/3	W	2/20	W	W
Evening Grosbeak	1/14	12/24	1/28	1/2	1/19	12/28	0	12/14	12/21
Red-eyed Towhee	3/15		3/8	3/6	3/15	3/25	3/10	3/17	W
Chipping Sparrow		4/10	4/12	4/5	4/3		3/24	3/24	3/3
Fox Sparrow	2/25	2/26	3/2	2/16	3/4	2/28	3/19	3/28	3/19
Song Sparrow	2/22		2/12	W	W	W	2/20	W	W

ervoirs and ponds in the central and western counties to supply the initial migration dates for the species that migrate in silence. The first Horned Grebe appeared near Emmitsburg on Mar. 8, and the first Pied-bill on the 10th (John W. Richards). By the 24th of that month the flight was in full swing; Horned Grebes at Emmitsburg increased to 8, and two days later an increase in Pied-bills was noticed at Kent Island.

Swans and Geese. The first Whistling Swans to depart were heard over northern Baltimore County on Mar. 5 (Stephen Simon). The peak movement began in the late afternoon of Mar. 20 and continued through the 22nd. The last heavy flight occurred on Apr. 1 over Baltimore (Donald R. McComas) and Monkton (Simon). Canada Geese were migrating as early as Feb. 27 over Gambrill State Park near Frederick (Mrs. Austin L. Hoffman); the largest inland flight reported was 350 birds over Emmitsburg on Apr. 1 (Richards).

Ducks. The Blue-winged Teal and the Shoveller are the two ducks that we see regularly in spring and fall but seldom in winter. Two Shovellers that wintered at Owings Mills (Elmer and Jean Worthley) provided the first Maryland winter record away from the coastal plain. One at Emmitsburg on Mar. 8 (Richards) was a very early spring arrival.

Vultures and Hawks. The Black Vulture, absent from Unity all winter, returned on Mar. 25 (Seth Low). The only Rough-legged Hawk identified, a light phase bird, was at Monkton on Mar. 16 (Simon). A very early Pigeon Hawk, the third Talbot County record, was studied at Claiborne on Mar. 10 by Richard Kleen and Ernest Adams.

Turkeys. If you think you hear a turkey in the vicinity of Black-water Refuge, chances are you are not just a victim of an over-active imagination. Edmund Henderson saw 5 individuals at the refuge on Mar. 12, and investigation by Richard Kleen disclosed that about 30 Turkeys had recently been released there.

Snipe. There were more reports than usual of Wilson's Snipe. Small numbers wintered in all parts of the coastal plain, and on Mar. 5

Richard and Martha Dubois noted 10 transients at Kent Narrows. The Majority of arrivals clustered around Mar. 17-19, and a spectacular peak of 110 was tallied on Mar. 25 at Sherwoods Pond near Easton by Chick Welsh and Kleen.

Owls, Woodpeckers. Talbot County almost had a monopoly on Saw-whet Owls once again, with four records during the period Jan. 14 to Mar. 12. Outside of their normal range at this season were a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at McCoolle on Dec. 29 (Leonard Llewellyn) and a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Cumberland through the winter (Mrs. Harold Smith).

Swallows, Chickadees. For the second year in succession Caroline County turned in the first Tree Swallow report two weeks before any other area. Since the Fletchers are the only M.O.S. members who have succeeded in getting this species to use their nesting boxes, it would be interesting to know whether these very early arrivals are the locally nesting individuals. Black-capped Chickadees, which were recorded in numbers by almost every observer in the State in the winter of 1954-55, were found only as far south as the Triadelphia and Annapolis Christmas Bird Counts. The only subsequent report outside of the mountains was a single banded bird that remained through the period at Monkton in northern Baltimore County (Simon).

Robins, Waxwings. Robins wintered in great abundance in all areas east of the mountains and were plentifully scattered through the mountains as well. Nearly 8,900 Robins were counted on the Maryland Christmas Counts this winter, as compared with 600 last winter. They remained equally numerous until the start of the migration at the end of February. The nomadic Cedar Waxwings were also numerous, being attracted by the plentiful crop of wild and cultivated berries. At Christmas time they were here in only modest numbers (a little more than twice as many as the previous year), but unlike the former year, they were present in all parts of the State. Then, in late February, a sudden invasion of large flocks appeared, breaking local records of abundance for this species. From Feb. 23 to Feb. 25, 1,325 waxwings fed on Multiflora Rose hips on the Patuxent Refuge (Llewellyn). By the next day a thousand of the birds had departed to feed elsewhere. Throughout the month of March reports of smaller flocks continued to pour in.

Warblers. Despite the cold, windy weather, Myrtle Warblers wintered in the mountains of Frederick, Washington and Allegany Counties, indicating once more that a plentiful supply of Poison Ivy berries will support them in all kinds of weather. At least two of the wintering Yellow-breasted Chats survived into February, and one of them to late March. A chat that frequented Mrs. Chase Kirtley's feeder in Mitchellville from Jan. 18 to Feb. 8 could have been the same individual seen at Gambrills on Jan. 2 by Martina Luff. Another visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Zerr in Baltimore from late February until at least the 27th of March; identification of this first March record for Maryland was confirmed by Lola Strack and Alice Kaestner.

Orioles. We are indebted to Hervey Brackbill of The Evening Sun for the following oriole reports and for some of the notes on winter finches in the next paragraphs. It seems more than a coincidence that both Mrs. George Buck of Towson and Mrs. Robert Costen of Catonsville, who had single Baltimore Orioles at their feeders in the winter of 1954-55 (Cole, Maryland Birdlife 11:49), again entertained the same

species this winter. Among other reports were unconfirmed flocks of four at Dickeyville on March 28 and of eight at nearby Windsor Hills, both in Baltimore City.

Evening Grosbeaks. This handsome species was present through the winter in all parts of the State; and unlike last year, tended to congregate at feeding stations where it ravenously consumed hundreds of pounds of sunflower seeds. Queen Annes was the only reporting county to miss this grosbeak. As mentioned in the previous SEASON report, Evening Grosbeaks were late in arriving in the fall; in fact, arrivals continued to be reported through January, February and March, with a peak building up during the latter month. At least one of the birds trapped at my Laurel feeder had participated in the 1951-52 flight to our area; furthermore, a bird banded in Laurel in the spring of 1952 was recovered in Michigan in the winter of 1954-55. There is also other evidence from the banding records to show that the flight which penetrated into Maryland, the Carolinas and Georgia last winter did not originate in the same area as did the birds that visited us this year. Fifty were banded at Laurel this spring by Chandler and Eleanor Robbins, 42 at the Paulsen's feeder in Charlestown by Orville Crowder, and smaller numbers at Towson (Simon) and Unity (Low). We can anticipate that at least 2 or 3 of these banded birds will reveal something of the further travels of these birds.

Other Northern Finches. Purple Finches, likewise, swarmed over numerous feeding stations and nearly a thousand were banded in Maryland during March and April. One bird that was trapped at Laurel answered two interesting questions: how long it takes for this species to attain its full wine-colored plumage, and where the bird had been hatched. This particular bird, captured on April 27 in adult male plumage, had been banded at Amsterdam, N. Y., by Mrs. Margaret A. Fitzgerald, who stated that she was "positive that he was hatched and raised here in the summer of 1954." This bird, therefore, had reached full plumage by its second spring. Mrs. Fitzgerald added another interesting note to the history of this particular bird by stating that it had returned to her banding station on May 2, 1955. We are both looking forward to seeing it again. In contrast to the two species above, the Pine Siskin was hardly reported. The rare Pine Grosbeak visited the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. John Workmeister in Cumberland for one day in mid-February.

Sparrows. Nearly everybody commented upon the exceptionally large numbers of Fox Sparrows that frequented feeding stations from late February into April. Most banding cooperators normally succeed in trapping between 1 and 10 of these in a season, but this spring several people tagged 50 or more individuals, and an aggregate of several hundred were taken by banders in this state. Other feeding station operators reported the same thing—5 to 20 times the normal number of Fox Sparrows. We may surmise that the cold spring and heavy snowfall, especially to the north of us, had caused these birds to pile up in our State. Possibly this is part of the answer. Possibly also, the birds that normally migrate through the Appalachians shifted their course eastward to avoid the heavy snow cover in the mountains. Your guess on this is probably as good as mine.



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

OPERATION BIRD NEST

Meade Lloyd

The seventh grade class of St. Michaels High School has been working on an interesting project for about a month. The project is nest finding, supervised by Mr. Richard L. Kleen (the president of the Talbot County Bird Club and also our teacher). The object of the project is to see who can find the most and the best nests. Although many of the boys are members of the bird club, most of the other classmates have done just as well and some have done even better. The nests are worth different points to make the project more exciting. For example, the Great Blue Heron's nest is worth 5 points, the Osprey's nest is worth 3, and the Barn Swallow only one. On June 6, when the contest was finished, Ann Hambleton had the most points with 130. In second place was Doris Defibaugh, and Med Marshall was third. Although we won't get points during the summer, I think a lot of us are going to continue with Operation Bird Nest.

St. Michaels

A PRODUCTIVE NESTING AREA

Richard L. Kleen

We who would rather study birds than shoot them often look upon the duck blind, so prevalent in our tidewater counties, as solely an aid in lowering our bird population. Although this is certainly true during the hunting season, duck blinds may be used for far variant purposes during the summer.

On a recent motorboat trip down Broad Creek near St. Michaels in Talbot County, I visited twelve water blinds. Constructed upon eleven of these blinds were active nests of Ospreys (Pandion haliaetus). All contained either eggs or young birds. The blind that proved the most productive induced me to write this note.

On the top of this particular blind perched the usual Osprey nest, this one with three eggs. As the adult birds flew over our heads attempting to appear fierce, I searched the cedar branches which provided the camouflage for the blind and found eleven nests of the Purple Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula). These nestings were in all stages of development, from eggs to young birds capable of flight. After banding a number of the grackle fledglings which were hesitant to try their wings, I climbed

into the blind and under a bench discovered a Barn Owl (Tyto alba) incubating her eight chalk white eggs.

As there were thirteen nests in this small area representing twenty-six adults and approximately fifty young, I think I shall have to search far to find a nesting colony so thickly populated as this Talbot County duck blind.

St. Michaels

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Florence Adams, St. Michaels.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kemp Bartlett, Jr., "Tanglewood", Woodbrook, Balto. 12.
Mrs. C. Lloyd Bunting, Valley Road, Brooklandville. Valley 3-4897
Mr. Martin Cain, Goldsboro.
Mr. George R. Fessenden, 1703 Northern Pky., Balto. 12. IDlewood 5-6081
Mr. Richard Ford, 439 Shogan Drive, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.
Mrs. Margaret P. Hanks, Oxford.
Mrs. Dan Hannan, 327 Dixie Drive, Towson 4.
Mrs. Charles Henderson, Easton.
Mrs. Eunice Highley, Easton.
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Holter, 416 Columbus Avenue, Frederick.
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Kingsland, Easton.
Mr. E. O. Mellinger, Savannah Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Port Wentworth, Ga.
Mr. Michael Messix, Queen Anne.
Miss Jane Moller, St. Michaels.
Dr. and Mrs. William D. Noble, Easton.
Mrs. W. Brice Owen, 1009 Poplar Hill Road, Balto. 10. HOpkins 7-0197
Mrs. Margaret D. Rinsma, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.
Prof. Samuel D. Robbins, 711 Pleasant Street, Belmont 78, Massachusetts.
Rev. Samuel D. Robbins, Adams, Wisconsin.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ross, Easton.
Dr. Norwood K. Schaffer, 8 Beechdale Road, Baltimore 10. TUredo 9-0065
Mr. Thomas E. Shields, 128½ Edginton Lane, Wheeling, West Virginia.
Mrs. D. C. Wharton Smith, 2 Wyndhurst Ave., Balto. 10. TUredo 9-0663
Miss Dorothy Vernon Smith, 400 West 119th Street, New York, New York.
Mrs. Boone Strickland-Clarke, 1818 Greenberry Road, Baltimore 9.
Dr. and Mrs. James B. Thomas, 905 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick.
Mrs. F. W. Welch, Jr., Easton.
Mr. George R. Wilcox, 4006 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore 7.
Mrs. H. P. Yerby, 210 East Dover Street, Easton.

Color Prints of Maryland Birdlife Cover Photos

Dr. Charles J. Stine has very kindly offered to provide at cost (\$6 each) to M.O.S. members 8 x 10 Kodachrome prints of the birds appearing on any of the 1955 covers of Maryland Birdlife or of any future cover photos made from his color transparencies. The colored prints are excellent, sharp reproductions, suitable for framing. Send inquiries to Dr. C. J. Stine, 6305 Belair Road, Baltimore 6, Md.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY:

FIRST: That we, the subscribers, Seth H. Low, whose post office address is Route 2, Gaithersburg, Maryland; Jean Worthley, whose post office address is Owings Mills, Maryland; Gladys H. Cole, whose post office address is 625 Valley Lane, Towson-4, Maryland; James Travis, whose post office address is 3300 St. Paul Street, Baltimore-18, Maryland, and Lester E. Wood, whose post office address is 1938 W. Lanvale Street, Baltimore-17, Maryland, all being of full legal age, do hereby, under and by virtue of the general laws of the State of Maryland authorizing the formation of corporations, associate ourselves with the intention of forming a corporation.

SECOND: The name of the corporation (which is hereinafter called the Corporation) is:

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

THIRD: The purposes for which this Corporation is formed and the objects to be carried on and promoted by it are to engage in any such educational, scientific and charitable pursuits as may be necessary or appropriate,

(a) To study and record the observations of bird life in Maryland and vicinity and to collate the scientific data furnished by bird students.

(b) To publish and distribute at established times the official publication of the Corporation.

(c) To promote the knowledge, development, protection and conservation of bird life and natural resources.

(d) To establish and maintain such scientific and educational projects as nature trails, exhibits, tours, camps and nature sanctuaries.

(e) To encourage the organization and operation of affiliated groups in sympathy with the aforesaid aims.

(f) To cooperate, as occasion prompts, with national and state ornithological organizations and conservation agencies, and with private associations devoted to such interests and to conservation and education in the field of natural resources.

(g) To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions, and to develop and maintain a library relative to the subjects mentioned above and related matters.

(h) To publish and distribute documents as a means of disseminating information about the subjects mentioned above and related matters.

(i) To acquire by purchase, deed, lease, devise, bequest, gift, grant or otherwise, and to sell, lease, mortgage, improve, develop, invest in, take, hold and grant title to and otherwise deal in, dispose of and use real and personal property, and any interest therein, of every kind and wheresoever situate, for the purposes of the Corporation.

(j) In general to do any and all of the things above set forth and such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and purposes of the Corporation.

FOURTH: The post office address of the principal office of the Corporation in this state is 2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore-17, Maryland. The name and post office address of the Resident Agent of the Corporation in this state are Richard D. Cole, 625 Valley Lane, Towson-4, Maryland. Said Resident Agent is a citizen of this state and actually resides therein.

FIFTH: The Corporation shall have no capital stock.

SIXTH: The Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Trustees elected annually by the members in the manner provided in the by-laws, subject, however, to the provision that the number of Trustees shall not be less than three. The following five persons shall act as the Board of Trustees until the first annual meeting, or until their successors are duly chosen and qualify:

Seth H. Low
Jean Worthley
Gladys H. Cole
James Travis
Lester E. Wood

SEVENTH: The present members of "Maryland Ornithological Society", an unincorporated association, shall be the first members of the Corporation. Additional members may be elected, all members may be classified, may resign or be removed, and vacancies may be filled, as provided in the by-laws.

EIGHTH: The officers of the Corporation shall in the first instance be elected by the Board of Trustees and thereafter they shall be elected in the manner provided in the by-laws. The officers shall consist of a President, one or more Vice Presidents as provided in the by-laws, a Secretary and a Treasurer. One person may hold any two offices except those of President and Vice President.

NINTH: The members attending in person any regularly convened meeting of the members of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum, unless otherwise provided by the by-laws.

TENTH: The duration of this Corporation shall be perpetual.

ELEVENTH: No part of the net earnings or income of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder, member or individual.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have signed and sealed this Certificate of Incorporation on the 30th day of April, 1956.

(Sgd.) Seth H. Low (SEAL)
(Sgd.) Jean Worthley (SEAL)
(Sgd.) Gladys H. Cole (SEAL)
(Sgd.) James Travis (SEAL)
(Sgd.) Lester Edw. Wood (SEAL)

STATE OF MARYLAND)
CITY OF BALTIMORE) SS.

I hereby certify that on this 30th day of April 1956, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for the State and City aforesaid, personally appeared Seth H. Low, Jean Worthley, Gladys H. Cole, James Travis and Lester E. Wood, and severally acknowledged the foregoing Articles of Incorporation to be their act and deed.

As witness my hand and notarial seal.

(Sgd.) F. Paul Dwyer
Notary Public

My Commission Expires May 6, 1957.

BY-LAWS OF

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ARTICLE I - SEAL

The Board of Trustees shall provide a suitable seal for the Corporation which shall remain in the custody of the Secretary.

ARTICLE II - MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 1 - Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members of the Corporation shall be held in each year at the office of the Corporation in Baltimore, Maryland, or at such other place in the State of Maryland as the Board of Trustees may determine, on the second Saturday in the month of May, for the purpose of electing Trustees and officers and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully be brought before the meeting.

Section 2 - Special Meetings.

Special meeting of the members shall be called by the Secretary upon written request of the President or of any three Trustees. No business other than that specified in the call thereof shall be conducted at any special meeting.

Section 3 - Notices

Notice of the annual meeting and of any special meeting of members shall be mailed at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting to each member entitled to vote, at his last known post office address as the same appears on the records of the Corporation.

Section 4 - Quorum and Voting

The members attending in person at any meeting of the members shall constitute a quorum. Each member, other than Junior Members, shall be entitled to one vote on any matter coming before any such meeting.

Section 5 - Order of Business

At all meetings of the members the order of business shall be as follows:

- (a) Call to order.
- (b) Reading and settlement of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- (c) Reports of officers and committees.
- (d) If the annual meeting or a meeting called for that purpose, the election of Trustees and officers.
- (e) Unfinished business.
- (f) New business.
- (g) Adjournment.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Maryland Ornithological Society as of May 1, 1956 shall be members of the Corporation in their present membership classes. Additional members in the Corporation shall be by classes and on an annual basis for a fiscal year July 1 to June 30. Membership in any class shall be open, upon such application and approval, as the Board of Trustees shall from time to time by resolution provide, to any person in sympathy with the purposes and objects of the Corporation, and upon payment of the fee applicable to the class of membership elected. The classes of memberships and fees payable therefor shall be as follows:

- (a) Honorary: Honorary members shall be those to whom membership is awarded, without dues requirements, by the Board of Trustees in its discretion, for meritorious service in behalf of the purposes and objects of the Corporation.
- (b) Patrons: Those who contribute the sum of \$1,000.00 or more, without annual dues thereafter.
- (c) Life members: Those who contribute the sum of \$75.00 in not more than three installments, without annual dues thereafter.
- (d) Sustaining members: Those who shall pay annual dues of \$5.00.
- (e) Active members: Those who shall pay annual dues of \$1.00.
- (f) Junior members: Those who shall pay annual dues of \$.50. Junior membership shall be limited to persons under 18 years of age, and shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV - LOCAL UNITS

A Local Unit of the Society may be organized by not less than six members of the Corporation in any area in Maryland. Such units may adopt by-laws and administer their own affairs, provided such action is not in conflict with the charter and by-laws of the Corporation.

ARTICLE V - TRUSTEES

Section 1.

There shall be a Board of Trustees of not less than three but equal to the total number of Trustees the authorized Local Units may elect.

Each Local Unit having from 6 to 100 members shall be entitled to be represented on the Board of Trustees by two of its members who shall be nominated by it annually, in accordance with its by-laws, prior to the annual meeting of the Corporation. Units having in excess of 100 members shall be entitled to be represented by, and in like manner shall nominate, one additional Trustee for each 100 members, or part thereof, in excess of 100 members. The nominations of such Trustees shall be reported by each Local Unit nominating them to the Nominating Committee of the Corporation prior to the annual meeting and shall be reported as such nominees to the members at the annual meeting. Election of Trustees at such meeting shall be by majority vote of the members present, voting by ballot, or viva voce, as the meeting determines. The term of each Trustee shall begin on the date of his election and continue for one year or until his successor is elected and qualified.

Section 2.

The Board of Trustees at the first meeting after its election, or as soon as may be thereafter, shall appoint four persons from the members of the Board or officers of the Corporation who, together with the President, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, when the Board of Trustees is not in session, and in the absence of specific directions by it, shall have general charge of the affairs and funds of the Corporation. The Executive Committee shall meet upon call of the President or of any three members thereof, and shall meet at least once a year. At other times its duties may be discharged by mail vote of a majority of the Committee, provided all members of the Committee have opportunity to vote on each matter so presented. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum at all called meetings. The Executive Committee shall keep a record of its acts and proceedings and report the same to the Board of Trustees.

Section 3.

The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Sanctuary Committee consisting of five members chosen from the members of the Board or officers of the Corporation. The Sanctuary Committee shall appoint one of its members Chairman and shall have the duty, subject to the control of the Board of Trustees, of investigating the acquisition and construction, and of supervising and managing the affairs of, any bird or wild life sanctuary or other nature project belonging to or coming under the control of the Corporation.

Section 4.

The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members who shall appoint one thereof as Chairman. The Nominating Committee shall prepare and present to the Board a slate of nominees for all Trustees and officers, including all nominees for Trustee and Vice President received from the Local Units, for submission to the members for election at the annual meeting.

Section 5.

The Board of Trustees shall meet, at least once a year, upon due notice to all Trustees and at such time and place as the majority shall determine. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called at any time by the President or any three Trustees. Unless waived by all members, not less than ten days' notice of each meeting shall be given by the Secretary in writing or by telephone.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officers of the Corporation shall be members thereof and shall be a President, one Vice President from each Local Unit, a Secretary and a Treasurer, each of whom shall serve for one year and until a successor is elected and qualified. The same person may hold any two offices except those of President and Vice President.

Section 2 - President

The President shall be elected from the members of the Board of Trustees. He shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. Subject to the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, he shall exercise general supervision and control over the affairs of the Corporation and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Trustees or Executive Committee.

Section 3 - Vice President

Each Local Unit, in accordance with its by-laws and not less than 30 days before the annual meeting of the Corporation, may nominate one Vice President of the Corporation, and report such nomination to the Nominating Committee, which Committee shall report it to the annual meeting. The Vice Presidents so elected shall elect, as soon as may be after the annual meeting, a First Vice President. He shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and serve during any other inability of the President to act.

Section 4 - Secretary and Treasurer.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the President.

Section 5.

Each officer of the Corporation shall be elected by majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual meeting, by ballot or viva voce as the meeting determines, for a term of one year to begin from the date of the annual meeting and continue until a successor is elected and qualified.

ARTICLE VII - VACANCIES

Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, or in any other Committee, or in any office of the Corporation shall be filled by the Board of Trustees by a vote of the majority of the entire number of Trustees.

ARTICLE VIII- SIGNATURES

All checks, drafts or notes of the Corporation shall be signed and/or countersigned by such officers, agent or agents of the Corporation as may be so designated from time to time by the Board of Trustees of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed at any regular meeting of the members, or at any special meeting thereof duly called for that purpose, by a majority vote of the members present and voting thereat; provided that in the call for any such special meeting notice of such purpose shall be given.

TRIP REPORT: Talbot County Boat Trip, March 11, 1956

Under Dick Kleen's leadership fourteen members went from Bozeman wharf through Eastern and Chesapeake Bays to Poplar Island. We started out in the rain but the sun came out very soon. We watched Horned Grebes playing in the cove while a Turkey Vulture, poised in a tree on the opposite bank, eyed us. We saw Whistling Swans and Canvas-backs just after starting out. Soon we spotted an eagle, probably an immature Bald, on a point. Then we saw a few Redheads. Next came American Golden-eyes in profusion, myriads of Old-squaws, White-winged Scoters and some Surf Scoters. As we continued our trip we saw some scaup, about 15 or 20 Brant, also a few Pintails and Black Ducks. Near Poplar Island there were many swans and hundreds of Canvas-backs. The trees on the island were full of Great Blue Herons and many more flew about, one far out in the Bay. We saw Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, two or three Great Black-backed Gulls, and on our return trip many Bonaparte's Gulls. --Homer and Gemma Rizner.

SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION OF AN EASTERN PHOEBE'S NEST

Jean Worthley

On May 25, 1956, while visiting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Seligman, Park Heights Ave., Owings Mills, we were shown the nest of an Eastern Phoebe, (*Sayornis phoebe*), which was wired into a Dogwood tree about 7 feet above the ground. The nest, containing young, had been moved because of painting, from its original location under the eaves of a porch 10 feet away. The move had taken place that morning and Mrs. Seligman asked us about the possibility of the parents continuing to feed the young in the new location. We had just finished telling her that the young would probably die of starvation, when into the Dogwood tree flew both parent phoebes with food in their bills. They fed the nestlings as if the nest had not been moved. The young successfully left the nest a week later.

This incident recalls a similar interesting experiment undertaken by Mr. Richard Cole of Towson in the summer of 1954 in which he moved the nest of a Barn Swallow, (*Hirundo rustica*), from a barn about to be torn down and placed it on a beam in his garage 100 feet away. The birds came into the garage but instead of using the nest that had been moved built another near it and are now nesting in the garage for the third successive summer.

Presumably the nesting and parental instinct in the species named above is sufficiently strong to allow moderate artificial relocation of the nest.

Owings Mills

COMING EVENTS

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|--------------|--|
| July 29 | State Botanical Trip to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. |
| Sept. 9 | Woods' Picnic, Sandy Point and Annapolis, meet at Light & Redwood Sts. at 8:00 a.m. |
| Sept. 9 | Talbot Club Migrant Hike to Tilghman's Island. |
| Sept. 8-23 | Bird Banding and Observations of Migrants at Ocean City. |
| Sept. 14-16? | Cape May, Fall Migration, Lectures, Movies. |
| Sept. 15-16 | Hawk Flights, Dan's Rock, Allegany County. |
| Sept. 15-16 | Talbot Club Weekend at Ocean City. |
| Sept. 21 | Talbot Club Monthly Meeting, Easton Library, 8:00 p.m., Dr. Charles Stine, "Maryland from Coast to Crest." |
| Sept. 22 | Monument Knob, Hawk Flights. |
| Sept. 24 | Caroline Club Monthly Meeting, Camp Mardella, 8:00 p.m. |
| Sept. 29 | Upper Loch Raven, Hutzler Parking Lot, Towson, 7:30 a.m., Charles Buchanan. Fall Warbler Migration. |
| Sept. 30 | Stony Brook Farm, Unity, Md. Baltimore people meet west end of Edmondson Village Parking Lot, 8:00 a.m. |